

Student regent hopefuls square off in debate

MARK REAGAN
CONTRIBUTOR

The annual *Gateway* sponsored student president/ regent candidate debate was held Wednesday, Sept. 26, at 11:30 a.m. in the Milo Bail Student Center Fireside lounge. The candidates were greeted by a modestly filled lounge with a collection of onlookers gathered around the perimeter.

The candidates – Meg Mandy and her running mate Sheena Kennedy as well as Lucas Seiler and his running mate Buey Ruei – had come to put forth their best explanation for why they should be elected.

Scott Stewart, editor in chief of the *Gateway* and moderator of the debate, began by welcoming everyone and explained the rules of

The first candidate to answer was allowed two minutes to respond to a question. The other candidate had a minute and a half to respond. After the questions had all been asked and appropriately responded to, each of the president/ regent candidates then had two minutes to make a closing statement.

The audience was not allowed to ask questions, which Stewart said was because, “the debate was rather hastily put together, and the candidates were not afforded enough time to be ready for audience questions.”

Neither side was provided the questions beforehand.

The first couple of questions

addressed student government’s visibility campaigns. Both Mandy and Seiler agreed that the most recent visibility campaigns have been effective.

The candidates promised to add improvements such as newsletters, recycling programs, increased efficiency in already existing programs, better collaboration with the *Gateway* and more innovative ways to seek increased student involvement.

Both candidates touted the success of recent student government visibility campaigns by highlighting recent higher voter turnout.

Questions concerning University Program and Facilities Fee Fund B were up next for the candidates. Fund B is made up of student fees that

support campus recreation, the student center, the SPO, athletics and other programs. Student government does not have a binding vote on how those funds are spent.

Mandy said, “UNO is a black sheep” and that most other universities let their student representatives have a binding vote on similar funds. Mandy promoted a change. She said students should have a say on Fund B.

Ruei answered for Seiler’s camp. He said it is important for students to have an opinion, but that the university has experts who will use the fund more efficiently and effectively. He argued the decisions concerning allocating Fund B should be left in their hands rather than be given over to student government.

See **DEBATE**: Page 2



photo illustration by Patrick Doty

Candidates for president/regent and vice president explained their views on campus issues at a debate sponsored by the *Gateway* on Wednesday. Pictured left to right are vice president candidate Buey Ruei, president/regent candidate Lucas Seiler, *Gateway* Editor in Chief Scott Stewart, president/regent candidate Meg Mandy and vice president candidate Sheena Kennedy.

University plays host to fall career fair: Organizations interact, network with students

REBECCA WHITNEY
CONTRIBUTOR

Looking for a job? Curious about what career options are nearby that relate to your major?

Many UNO students found answers to those questions and more during this fall's job fair on Tuesday and Wednesday at the Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom.

Over 100 employers were scheduled to be present at the job fair in pursuit of finding potential employees.

Tuesday's employers were mainly non-profit organizations, healthcare related, government corporations and even university employers. Wednesday's booths were reserved for profit companies.

Both days most employers handed out information about their companies and helped the prospecting students narrow down their searches. A majority of the employers were actually looking to hire, and were actively recruiting that very day.

Angela Jackson, representative of Omaha Public Power District, said, “The job fair is a good way for students to burn gas as far as getting an insight

on what businesses have to offer.”

She said the UNO student population represented themselves professionally.

“When I see a really good candidate, I grab them,” said Jackson.

Jackson knew that many employers at the fair were also seeking to hire, so she had to keep her eyes open.

Employers said they were looking for students who were actively pursuing their future careers by attending job fairs, doing internships and attending career functions held by the school.

They also said that students who were trying to gain connections within their colleges were more likely to be considered for employment.

“Professors are key,” said Becky Little of RSM McGladrey Inc., an accounting firm.

Little was sure to stress the importance of getting to know professors because of the advice they can provide students when looking for careers.

Most students attending the job fair were in search of future careers opportunities and Lindsay Ortmeier, an accounting major, was one of those students. The first step, Ortmeier said,



A UNO student chats with Waddel and Reed Financial Advisors at the UNO Career Exploration on Tuesday, Sept. 26. The fair helped students to dial into career options.

is on the student.

“You have to go up to them before they pursue you,” said Ortmeier.

Freshman KaCee Kremeier said he was trying to get an overview of what employers were looking for and what they had to offer.

When asked his initial thoughts

of the job fair, Kremeier said, “I was overwhelmed.”

Kremeier was positive about the job fair though, and said, “If you took the time to talk to everyone at the job fair, you would be that much more enlightened for all the possibilities for your life.”

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Taylor Muller | News Editor

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The candidates were then questioned about their official records.

Seiler was questioned about his past senate session absences, which had accumulated to a point near which he could have been impeached. Seiler said his absences were due to a heavy course-load. However, he did not foresee it being a problem if elected.

Mandy was questioned about her support of a purchase of a \$492.58 desk for President/Regent Alexander Williams' office last April. She said she believed the senate had been fiscally responsible when purchasing the desk, but she would be open to the idea of a separate fund to pay for these types of expenses rather than taking them from student fees.

Stewart then asked Ruei why he filed a petition to be the running mate of Speaker of the Senate Cassy Loseke but then changed his mind, choosing instead to run with Seiler.

Ruei said that he believed "more platforms would be completed with Seiler" and noted that he was initially "Loseke's second choice running mate." Ruei said afterwards that he considered the question a personal attack.

In last year's student senate debate, the possibility of "Greek bias" was the focus of part of the discussion. Then-president/regent candidate Logan Smith said last year, "Less than 10 percent of students are in Greek society, but they make up the vast majority of student government. There needs to be

a parity and fair representation."

When asked his opinion of Greek bias, Seiler said while Greeks do have connections, every student has a chance to join and that their goal is to succeed. Kennedy concurred, saying, "It's a known fact that if you're a Greek, you have connections."

Kennedy and Mandy both emphasized their platform of reaching out to students who do not know about student government. Kennedy went on to say, "There is a difference between having a support network and not having one."

The past two president/regents have been from part of the Greek system.

Afterwards, Stewart said the debate went well and addressed

several important issues. However, he was somewhat disappointed by the turnout due to late planning and disinterest in student government.

"Overall the candidates did a good job of handling and addressing difficult questions brought up without them being able to prepare sufficiently," Stewart said.

The student elections take place next Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 2 and Oct. 3. Students can vote online at student government's Web site from 6 a.m. to midnight on Tuesday and from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday. The results of the election will be announced Wednesday evening.

For more information on the election, or to vote next week, visit sguno.unomaha.edu.

News You Can Use

COMPILED BY
TAYLOR MULLER
NEWS EDITOR

OLLAS Charla Series opens Sept. 28 with literary discussion

The UNO Office of Latino and Latin American Studies Charla Series will open its 2007-08 season today with a talk on "Margarito Rodriguez: A Literary Testimonio of the Midwest" by Ramon Guerra.

The event is being held in conjunction with Hispanic Heritage Month and will begin at 3 p.m. in Arts and Science Hall room 306.

It is free and open to the public.

The event is co-sponsored by the UNO Department of English and U.S. Department of Education.

For more information, call 554-3835.

UNO soccer pancake feed Sept. 30

Help support the UNO soccer team by attending the Corner Kick Booster Club's annual Pancake Feed this Sunday. The event runs from 9 a.m. to noon at the Chili Green's Dome, 68th and Spring streets. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for kids 12 and under.

After the pancakes, the Mavericks of UNO take on the Mavericks of Minnesota State, Mankato at 1 p.m. at the UNO soccer field.

All proceeds go to the UNO soccer program to help with travel expenses throughout the year. For

more information, contact Head Soccer Coach Don Klosterman at 554-4962.

UCRCA to Host "Tips" Brown Bag

The University Committee on Research and Creative Activity will host a Brown Bag, "Tips for Preparing a UCRCA Grant Proposal," on Tuesday, Oct. 2, at 11:30 a.m. in the Milo Bail Student Center U Mo Ho Room.

Drinks and dessert will be provided and the guidelines for UCRCA proposal submission are available on the Sponsored Programs and Research Web site at unomaha.edu/spr.

For more information, contact John Erickson, UCRCA chair, at 554-3163 or SPR at 554-2286.

Criss Library offers multi-media for checkout

The Criss Library is now offering use of three Sony Handycam video cameras and tripods to all students, faculty and staff for use outside of the library.

The cameras have a three-day loan period and, if no one is waiting, can be renewed. The camera also comes equipped with a camera bag, manual, USB cable and A/C adapter.

"We are eager to offer this opportunity to the UNO faculty, staff and students. We're hopeful this will help to accommodate a much needed service," said Doug Loewens, day circulation supervisor.

Patrons will need to sign a check-out form

and must have their MavCard to complete the transaction. Patrons are responsible for damages. For more information, contact the Circulation Desk at 554-3206.

History of first North American travels discussed at UNO

Beth Ritter, an associate professor with the Department of Sociology and director of Native American Studies at UNO, will lead a discussion about the first Spanish expeditions across the new continent, Oct. 12 in the Council Room of the Milo Bail Student Center.

Beginning at noon, the discussion will focus on Paul Schneider's 2006 book, *Brutal Journey: The Epic Story of the First Crossing of North America*.

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Letters must be signed using the writer's first and last names. Letters must include the writer's address and phone number for verification purposes only. Letters to the editor exceeding two typed pages will not be considered for publication.

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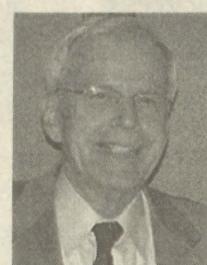
For the Record

In the Sept. 25 front-page news story "Two long-standing university deans to resign by next fall," the *Gateway* misidentified the photos of College of Arts and Sciences Dean Shelton Hendricks and College of Education Dean John Langan.

Their photos appear with their corrected captions below. The *Gateway* apologizes for this error.



John Langan



Shelton Hendricks

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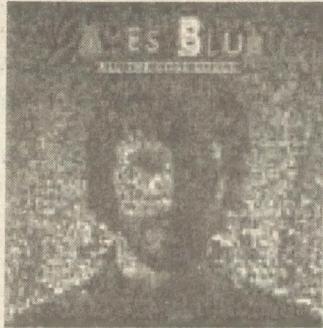
Charly Reed | Arts & Leisure

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arts@unogateway.com | September 28, 2007

In short: CD reviews in under 150 words

ANDREA BARBE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER



James Blunt
All the Lost Souls

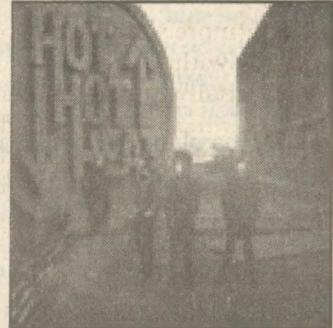
After mainstream success and a wildly popular world tour, British singer/songwriter James Blunt returns with his sophomore album, *All the Lost Souls*.

A far cry from his 2005 annoyingly sappy hit, "You're Beautiful," Blunt brings a new flare to his original folk sound, putting to rest any pre-conceived notions about this new release. Haunting piano melodies in "Shine On" and "Annie" and heart wrenching lyrics in "Carry You Home" give this album more texture, but a defining soulful tone as well. His unique vocals are more refined and focused, but don't detract from the powerfully moving ballads.

"I'm really glad I've been given a voice by my parents that sound different," Blunt said during a recent interview. "I'm very lucky for that."

As are we, James. As are we.

Grade: A



Hot Hot Heat
Happiness LTD.

With four other edgy albums under their belt, indie rock band Hot Hot Heat's latest release, *Happiness LTD.*, was sure to be phenomenal. Instead, it goes down in flames just like the Hindenberg.

This Canadian quartet showcases their immense potential and creativity on their 2005 album, *Elevator*, with toe-tapping singles like "Goodnight Goodnight" and "Middle of Nowhere", but that talent fails to carry that over to their new compilation.

It completely misses the mark this time around, with lead singer Steve Bays' voice noticeably higher, almost shrill.

The music is awkward and mediocre at best, leading me to wonder if the band spent enough time in the studio or if they just threw an album together to get something new out there.

My gut feeling tells me it's the latter of the two. Save your money on this one.

Grade: D



Biffy Clyro
Puzzle

With a unique name to match their sound, Biffy Clyro has been steadily rising through the music ranks over the past few years. This alternative rock band, hailing from Scotland, is sure to hit it big here in the states with their unparalleled themes and tender lyrics.

The trio actually has no lead singer, which I find amusing. Instead, all three band members lend their vocals so that each song is diverse and contrasting from the one before it. Heavy-hearted racks like "Folding Stars" and "Machines" shed light on the album's charismatic style and progressiveness.

At first listen, songs "Saturday Superhouse" and "A Whole Child Ago" make Biffy Clyro sound like a brilliant crossbreed between the Foo Fighters with a hint of Oasis.

With a killer combination like that, this album is one you won't want to pass up.

Grade: B+

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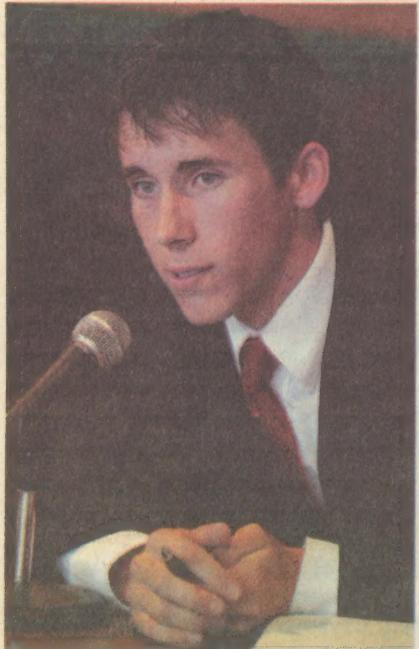
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Features

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Patrick Doty | Features Editor



Lucas Seiler



photos by Patrick Doty

Meg Mandy

What we wanted to ask during the debate, but couldn't

PATRICK DOTY
FEATURES EDITOR

Lucas Seiler

Lucas Seiler only has nine and a half fingers, but you wouldn't notice it by looking at him, he said.

When he was about 5 years old, growing up on a farm near Leigh, Neb., a stereo speaker fell on his left pinky finger.

"I was playing in an area where we were doing construction," Seiler said. "I don't remember it, but it's definitely something noticeable to me today."

Despite losing half a finger, Seiler said growing up in the country made him who he is today.

"I ended up going to school in a country school — Lakeview, a little tiny school," he said. "I learned a lot. It was a great

experience."

Now a bioinformatics student, Seiler enjoys the color orange and eating at the Olive Garden, since Joey's Seafood closed.

"I would say my favorite restaurant is Joey's Seafood, but it just went out of business," Seiler said. "I was extremely upset - I really like seafood."

Seiler enjoys activities that enable him to get outside and be active, like ultimate Frisbee, running, biking and swimming.

If elected Seiler said that his major has given him experiences that will help him along the way.

"Bioinformatics, and the programming I have learned to go along with, it would help as president," Seiler said.

One issue he would like to address if elected would be recycling on campus.

"It's so easy to do, to put recycling receptacles right next to the trash receptacles," Seiler said. "Give students a chance, and they'll do the right thing."

Meg Mandy

It was her first day of college, and as her mother came up and gave her a big hug and a kiss on the cheek, Meg Mandy was a bit embarrassed.

Mandy's mom, Wendy Eaton, is an instructor in UNO's music department. She decided to surprise Mandy in front of her sorority sisters in the food court.

"I was like, 'I'm not a baby anymore. I'm in college. I'm supposed to be away from you. What are you doing here?'" Mandy said. "I used to be super embarrassed about [her being around], but now I love it."

Mandy likes the color pink, and her favorite restaurants include an Old Market classic, M's Pub, as well as Mark's and Darwin's.

"I'm like a restaurant fiend; I love eating out," Mandy said.

In her free time — when she has it — Mandy enjoys reading and knitting.

"It's so 'old lady,' but I knit my own scarves," Mandy said with a laugh.

Her favorite book is *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, by Betty Smith.

"[The book] was given to me by my seventh grade literature teacher, because it was her favorite book, and I guess I was a teacher's pet or something," Mandy said. "It's so well written and a very empathetic story. I read it at least once a year."

She moved to Omaha from Bellevue after

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Sports

Jason Sibson | Sports Editor

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Blemish-free football team prepares for Maverick vs. Maverick showdown at Caniglia Field

SEAN OWENS
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The undefeated UNO Mavericks are set to face-off against rival Mavericks of Minnesota State, Mankato on Saturday, Sept. 29.

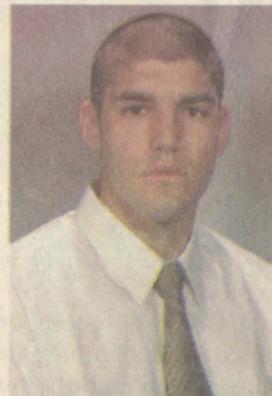
The 1 p.m. North Central Conference match up marks the 2007 homecoming game for the Mavericks of red, as they will battle to keep their flawless record intact. The contest will be the final tussle between the two Maverick schools within the NCC, as both schools will be leaving the withering conference after this season.

The UNO Mavs have had a stellar season to this point, bringing home a 2-0 NCC record and a 4-0 record overall. Led by junior quarterback Zach Miller, UNO has showcased a well-balanced offense that can move the chains on the ground as well as through the air.

UNO's top contributor to the success of the passing game is 6-foot-3-inch, 196-pound junior wide receiver Troy Kush. Leading the team in catches and yards, the soft-handed junior has amassed 25 catches for 388 yards and three touchdowns in 2007. The talented wide receiver looks to bring that Troy Kush type of effort to a showdown in which their final NCC record is on the line.

"It's nice to be at home this week," Kush said. "It's nice for homecoming because it brings a few more students to the game. It gives us the opportunity to show them that we are a good football team and we are representing their school. We want to get a win and keep them coming back."

UNO has shown a plethora of talent at the skill positions only four games into the 2007 season.



Zach Miller

Perhaps the biggest standout has been 5-foot-9-inch, 180-pound junior tailback Brian McNeill. The nifty runner was discovered in the first week of the season against Nebraska-Kearney when taking over for injured senior tailback Nate Wurth. McNeill's breakout carry in that game, a 78-yard touchdown run, was enough to show the coaches, fans and media that this cutback-styled runner can play ball. McNeill finished the game at Kearney with 22 rushes for 176 yards and two scores, including a 94-yarder that was called back because of a holding penalty.

Junior quarterback Zach Miller has shown what it takes to lead his team this year, passing for 888 yards and five touchdowns and rushing for 266 yards and four scores on the ground. The junior from Weston, Nebraska, struggled a bit in last week's match against Augustana College in which he committed four costly turnovers peppered throughout the game. Miller, a determined winner, did not let his disappointing play rattle him against the Vikings and moved the offense when they needed it the most. He eventually pulled his Mavericks through with a 36-23 victory.

On the defensive side of the ball, UNO has shown some signs of improvement in the secondary from the first week of the season. Senior safety Randy Kush has shown his leadership throughout the year. Kush has posted 33 tackles, one forced fumble and two interceptions. His pick last week marked the 16th of his illustrious career and broke the record for career interceptions in UNO's long history.

Junior cornerback Reed Taylor has also shown signs of leadership this season, accumulating 21 tackles, a forced fumble and an interception in 2007.

The defensive line has been solid at times, though recently giving up a number of yards on the ground. Junior linebacker Jeff Souder has been a constant conductor of demolition in 2007, blowing up holes at the line in every game this season. Souder has accumulated 36 tackles, seven for a loss, two forced fumbles and two sacks already in four games. His weekly stat stuffing has earned him NCC defensive player of the week honors twice this season.

Facing the Mavericks of UNO are the Mavericks of Mankato. The highly competitive series between the two Maverick programs currently favors UNO 14-11.

The Mankato Mavericks are off to a 3-1 start, and will bring a unique challenge to Caniglia Field this season.

Last season, Mankato finished at the top of Division II in the kicking game with 27.44 yards per return. Their offense finished fourth in the nation, averaging 285.7 yards per game. Senior quarterback Ben King finished third in the nation with 301.7 passing yards per game. King has already thrown for 1,293 yards and 13 touchdowns in 2007. Wide receivers Omaar Balton and Donte Shackelfo have 597 yards and six touchdowns between them, and have reception longs of 55 and 58 yards respectively.

The talented kick return game from a year ago has actually improved from its division-topping showing last season. Defensive back Kelvin Rodgers has a 30.2 kick return average in the early going, including a 99 yard touchdown.

"Every year they have a great team and great athletes," Kush said. "This year is no different. They have some of the best athletes we may see all year. It's a conference game and NCC games are always tough."

The UNO secondary will definitely be tested this weekend, and the improvements through four games will need to shine for the Mavs to walk away from this NCC battle on the winning side. The battle of the Mavericks will take place at Caniglia Field on Saturday, Sept. 29 at 1 p.m. Come support the Mavericks during this homecoming shootout.



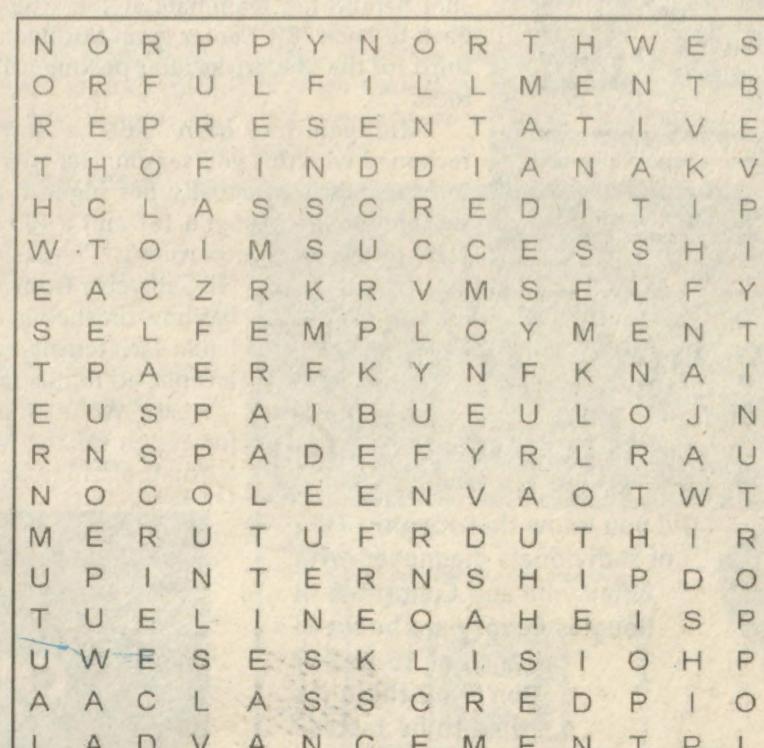
Randy Kush

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Annual UNO-UNK rivalry match dazzles for five games, ends in dismay for fighting Mavericks

JASON SIBSON
SPORTS EDITOR

The fact that the annual UNO-UNK volleyball match is a non-conference affair does little to tarnish the splendid rivalry its battles have created.

This in-state clash rarely ends short of an instant classic, and this year's version between No. 21 UNO and No. 22 UNK certainly added to that argument.

With a rowdy crowd of 2,000 plus backing them at home in the Health and Sports Center, the Lopers came out firing and captured games one and two. UNO was in a seemingly insurmountable hole in one of the toughest environments they've seen all season.

But, like many Maverick squads have shown since Rose Shires took the reigns 18 seasons ago, her 2007 Mavs displayed heart and grit Tuesday night, and they turned an easy Lopers victory into a marathon game for the ages.

"We were really proud of the way we came back and the fight that our team showed," said senior setter Katie Agnew. "After being down 2-0 we went in the locker room and said, 'Hey, we can win this game. We're going to win this game.'"

After committing 19 errors in the first two games, the Mavericks buckled down and cleaned up their



Katie Agnew

play. UNO claimed games three and four thanks to just nine errors total in the two games.

The pendulum of momentum had swung, and the score was even. The match to crown this year's best Division II volleyball team in the state had already surpassed the two hour mark. After four long and grueling games, a race to 15 points was going to determine bragging rights.

UNO maintained their roll into game five, jumping out to an 8-2 advantage. But the mistakes that were muffled in games three and four resurfaced at the most crucial spot in the match.

"In that fifth game, we let our errors get to us more than we should have," Agnew said.

Two and a half hours after the first serve, UNK claimed the game 17-15 in extra points.

The match win was the fifth in six years over UNO for the Lopers, who moved to 14-3 on the season in exhilarating fashion. Although UNO has drawn the short straw in recent years, this rivalry game is a yearly spectacle that the players and coaches love to be a part of.

"I could probably count the times in the last 20 years that this match did not go five games," said coach Shires. "You're playing for bragging rights in the state, and this game provides the type of environment that you dream about as a college

athlete."

The Mavericks (8-6 overall, 1-2 in the NCC) will now move onto another rivalry game, and another fierce opponent. Tonight at 7 p.m. at the Sapp Fieldhouse, UNO will return to conference competition and will play host to the 16-1 South Dakota Coyotes.

The road-tested Coyotes are led by junior middle blocker Kathleen Hruska, who is averaging an impressive 4.63 kills per game this season. Shires knows that just like with any other NCC contest, the Mavericks will have to bring their A game into tonight's match against USD.

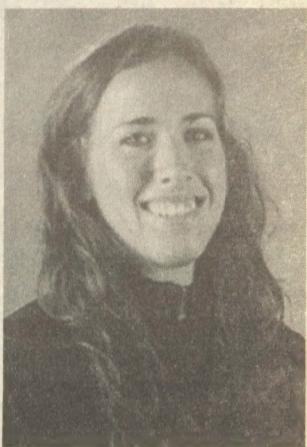
"South Dakota is a very seasoned team that actually has a lot of transfer players from Division I South Dakota State," Shires said. "We're going to have to be prepared to play well against them."

UNO has lost only once in six home games this season, and the team is feeling confident that it can tally another win under the lights of the Sapp Fieldhouse tonight against the Coyotes.

"Their confidence is driving them right now, and they've had a good start to their year," Agnew said. "But if we come out aggressive right off the bat and show that we're not going to let them come into our place and beat us, I think we'll be just fine."



Rose Shires



Coyote middle blocker Kathleen Hruska

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Golf team continues dominance, finish 1-2-3 in Minnesota

KEVIN CLEMENS
STAFF WRITER

The Maverick golf team continued its dominance over their opponents this weekend by taking all three medalist positions at the Mustang Invitational Championship in Marshall, Minn.

Not only did the Mavericks hog the podium in individual competition, but the team also shot a combined 319 and 313 Saturday and Sunday to coast to a 24 shot victory over second-place Minnesota State. The blowout win puts this golf team far above the rest of the conference as they now have won two straight tournaments.

Senior Lindsay Newton captured the top spot for the Mavericks after firing rounds of 77 and 78. Sophomore Erin Ommen finished one shot behind her teammate at 156 after shooting back-to-back 78's. Senior Lynn Mulligan finished third for the Mavericks after posting a 158 stroke total.

Mulligan has been quite a force to be reckoned with this golf season. Her two day total in Marshall was actually her highest score this season, having posted a 157 and a 155 in events prior to this weekend's rounds. The first team all-NCC member from a year ago has now finished in the top ten in each tournament she has played in this fall.

Sara Wolfe finished tied for eighth for the Mavs with a total of 164, and Abbey

Weddle tied for 23rd.

Head Coach Tim Nelson brought two more women to Minnesota, freshman Dani Suponchick and senior Kate O'Dea, to compete strictly in individual competition. Suponchick finished in a tie for 42nd place, and Kate O'Dea finished 48th overall.

It appeared as though the 5,936-yard, par-72 Marshall Country Club course didn't challenge these talented UNO golfers much this weekend. With another brilliant display of shot making, the Mavericks easily maintained their supremacy over the other teams in the NCC.

"They played exceptionally well and very tough as far as the weather goes," Nelson said. "We are playing well and we just want to keep on a roll."

The Mavericks will have their opportunity to continue on this proverbial roll next weekend, as they will travel to Grand Forks, N.D., for the North Dakota Invitational.

The Mavs will have to be ready because the NCC competition they will face in this tournament will most likely be gunning for this season's most dominating squad.



Lindsay Newton

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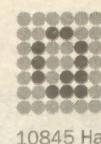
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Opinion

Scott Stewart | Editor in Chief

Page 7

editor@unogateway.com | September 28, 2007

Could it possibly, maybe, somehow be politics that generates student government apathy?

I'm apathetic.
I didn't use to be apathetic.
But I am now.
It's quite sad, really.

Like I tell my friends: I had another good year left in me.

This past year I served as the speaker of Student Senate for student government and just recently ended my term (today). And, boy, was it one long-ass year!

I started out my "career" in student government as a wee little freshman back in the fall of 2005. The president/regent at the time, a friend and fellow sorority sister, Elizabeth Kraemer, encouraged me to run.

She put me in contact with the then-Speaker Aaron Gilliland, who had started a political party. After some complications and finding out that I had to run independently, I unconfidently trudged forward with my campaign, assuming I would be defeated.

Instead, I was pleasantly surprised. I had won by four votes. Yes, just four votes.

As my term started, I was mentored by Aaron on how to write legislation, formulate ideas and proceed to follow them through to the end. I learned practically everything I knew leading into my second term because of him, for which I'm very thankful.

However, as I continued to delve deeper and deeper into the realms of student government, I started to realize that it was politics, all politics.

No matter how hard I and a few around me – such as former Sen. Josh Wiechman – worked on bettering the university, as well as the quality of life and rights for students, the attitudes of those senators who were members of senate purely for resume fluffing and fraternity representation slowed us down.

Not too soon after, it started consuming the senate and how it operated.

It was like war had broken out. During debates at Senate meetings, members physically segregated according to loyalties, cut each other off during passionate arguments and made their voting decisions, most times, purely based off what their friends were telling them to do.

There was no independent thought put into the process at all.

This made me agree with Vice President Mike White when he made a comment at a previous senate meeting about groupthink.

Group mentality really can ruin a lot of analytical thinking, subsequently putting a roadblock into doing work for the better good. If a view is correct, then individuals should reach that conclusion on their own. Groupthink is always bad.

Consequently, senators need to get over their "loyalties," stop being so damn lazy, educate themselves and make up their minds on their own.

Meanwhile, they need to make decisions that their constituents would support. After all, they must remember

that they were elected to represent the students, not just whatever organizations with which they may happen to hold membership.

Unfortunately, it seems a majority of senators, as well as members of the executive branch, forget the exact reason why they were chosen to serve in student government.

Instead, they focus on receiving credit for their actions. They've essentially forgotten, or rather, ignored, the whole point of their job – to serve the students.

Are students really being served with a \$492.58 desk?

What about spending \$2,500 on various meals, including an "association awards dinner" which involved spending "\$400-ish" (the official budget amount) on awards purely for student government members, so they can pat themselves on the backs, and a handful of faculty members, who were recognized for their "extraordinary commitment to SG-UNO."

In case you are concerned, don't worry: I didn't go unrecognized. I won the superlative award for "most opinionated." I'm so honored. Thank you, thank you.

Can a golden statue be erected in my honor? Someone needs to be recognized for thinking outside-the-box – it might as well be me!

Sadly, I had plans for bigger and better different thinking, and I was going to accomplish it by running for president/regent.

I wanted to combat the issues I felt were in need of being addressed head-on: fiscal responsibility, school spirit and embracing diversity.

Everything was planned out. I had a fantastic vice president, our platform was set – everything was perfect.

But it went down hill from there.

I lost my original running mate, scrambled to finally find a new one, perfected everything with the new running mate, and then again, got screwed over.

Among several reasons given – all purely selfish, of course – my second running mate decided he couldn't win with me.

Moreover, he didn't want to devote two weeks of his life to a campaign he didn't believe he could win.

So I was left out. I couldn't find an adequate running mate on such short notice.

Dreams, goals, aspirations? Killed.

Props to group mentality for continuing to fail the system!

At this point, you might say I'm bitter.

Damn straight I'm bitter! I worked my ass off to get where I was at, to accomplish what I accomplished and gain the knowledge I acquired over the past years.

Still, I must continue to remind myself of one thing, as my former running mate did when he told me of his decision to run with my opponent.

It's not personal. It's politics.

Vote for Mandy, Kennedy in upcoming election

Staff Editorial

After considering the candidates' histories, platforms and performance in Wednesday's debate, the staff of the *Gateway* has decided to endorse the Meg Mandy/Sheena Kennedy ticket in this year's student government elections.

Several issues help distinguish Mandy and Kennedy from their opponents, Lucas Seiler and Buey Ruei. Foremost among these are their positions on student fees and fiscal responsibility.

In Wednesday's debate, the *Gateway*'s editor in chief asked the candidates about the allocation of the University Program and Facilities Fee.

Currently, student representatives vote only a fraction of the fees collected from every student – namely, they vote on Fund A, which supports student government, student programming and 30 percent of the *Gateway*. The rest of your student fee dollars are budgeted every year by Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Wade Robinson.

Ruei, speaking on behalf of the Seiler/Ruei campaign, said students should leave the decision of how our student fees are allocated to administrators like Robinson. Ruei said the university has experts who will use the fund more efficiently and effectively than students could.

The *Gateway* believes this seriously underestimates the abilities of the students of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Students should certainly have a vote on how their fees are spent, just as taxpayers get an indirect vote on how their tax dollars are spent. Claiming the administration should hold a monopoly on the power to allocate money highlights a profound disrespect for the ideals of democracy.

Students should be allowed to make decisions through informed consent rather than be at the mercy of administrators who are sometimes more focused on what elementary school students will find at UNO in 15 years than they are about the ideas and concerns of students on campus right now.

From CANDIDATE: Page 4

seventh grade, and she is now a political science and history major.

"My majors both really require a lot of critical thinking," Mandy said. "I think that's something a president/regent needs to have."

Mandy said she would like to address the increasing tuition rates, if

she's elected.

"For the last six years there's been an increase in tuition, about 6 percent in the last few years," Mandy said. "That's something that students definitely care about . . . and not all students at UNO have the money – and there aren't always scholarships to cover it."

Another reason we favor the Mandy/Kennedy ticket is their decision to include fiscal responsibility as a plank in their platform. The gross overspending by student government last year did not even merit a sentence in the Seiler/Ruei campaign literature.

As recent as two weeks ago,

the Student Senate voted to spend

\$2,000 on a new table and chairs for

the executive boardroom. Mandy

and Kennedy were among a pitiful

minority of senators who opposed the

legislation.

Previously, the *Gateway* has run news stories and columns detailing the questionable spending of the Alexander Williams administration. That spending includes more than \$4,000 in office supplies, nearly \$6,000 for academic planners and thousands for organization memberships and convention trips.

It is our belief that student government is starting to realize that they need to be in better control of their budget. We think that Mandy and Kennedy will help keep student government moving in this direction.

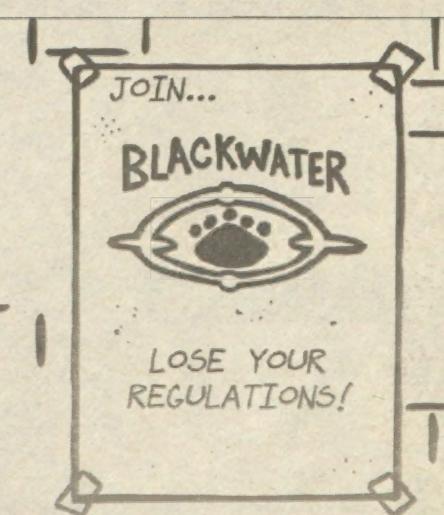
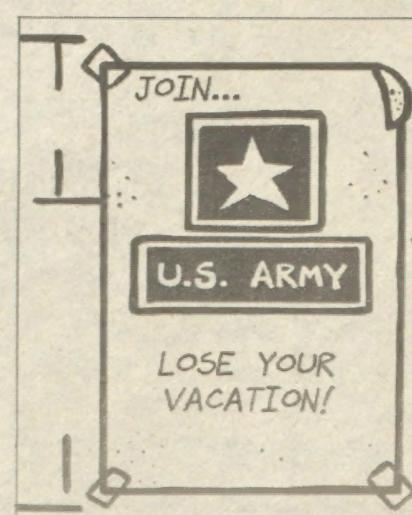
One final reason we believe the Mandy is a stronger president/regent candidate than Seiler is the simple facts of their records. Mandy took positions on issues in the senate, sponsored legislation and served as the chair of the student affairs committee.

Seiler, on the other hand, was one missed meeting away from being impeached for poor attendance. Our staff also cannot remember an instance of Seiler championing a position during floor debate.

It doesn't get any simpler than that: We know Mandy, and we trust she would do a good job. Seiler is just another candidate sponsored by Pi Kappa Alpha, the fraternal patron of our past two president/regents.

If your vote comes down to the issues, there's really no other choice.

Vote for the Mandy/Kennedy ticket in the student elections next Tuesday and Wednesday online at sguno.unomaha.edu.



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October 2

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Sat, Oct 20 - Tues, Oct 23

Mandatory Pre-Trip Meeting:

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